

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
April 19, 2023

Attendance

Board Members Present

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Staff

Tamara Stafford, Talbot County Election Director
Larry Thomas, Election Program Assistant II

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held April 19, 2023 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings of March 15 and March 27, 2023, copies of which had been mailed to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bulman moved to approve of minutes as mailed. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked for any additions or changes to the agenda as presented. Mr. Black moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Stafford provided the Board with a written report on staff activities since the last monthly Board Meeting. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes. She expanded on her written report as follows:

- The Department of Homeland Security has funds available. They can be applied for by the Board. Possible uses include expenses for the relocation of the Board's operation at Glebe Road to a temporary location in the Bay Street location.
- She introduced Mr. Thomas as the newly hired Election Program Assistant II. Board Members greeted Mr. Thomas and wished him well.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan reported that 2 bills had been approved by the legislature that affect Local Boards of Elections. House Bill 410 addresses the location of polling places. Local Boards of Election, including Talbot Board, opposed the bill on several grounds, including a retroactive provision affect polling place changes made in Talbot County. That provision was amended prior to passage in such a way that Talbot Board may be able to request a waiver of the provisions applying to the consolidation of polling locations implemented for the recent Gubernatorial election. Ms. Ryan summarized the steps needed to apply for the waiver.

Senate Bill 379 addresses the start of canvassing for mail-in ballots and the dates for Early Voting. Ms. Stafford reported that the Talbot Board will be able to comply with the provisions of the bill.

At this point, Mr. Thomas departed the meeting.

Old Business

- A. FY 2023 Budget - Ms. Stafford provided reports on expenditures recorded through March 28, 2023. There were no questions from Board Members.
- B. FY 2024 Budget – Ms. Stafford reported that there was no new information from the county regarding her requested budget.
- C. Facility for Election Office – Ms. Stafford reported on discussions with the county staff about the space needs for the Board of Elections. Temporary space at our existing location on Bay Street has been identified for relocation of Board operations at the Glebe Road location. Ms. Stafford provided Board Members with a floor plan for the temporary relocation and responded to questions. This temporary relocation may be accomplished by September 2023. Following this discussion, Mr. Black moved that the Board accept Floor Plan Test Fit Option A

as presented by Ms. Stafford. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Ms. Stafford reported that space in a permanent location for all operations of the Board of Elections is expected to be available in 2025. She presented a possible floor plan for the permanent location in the former Cadmus Building on Idlewild Avenue. Board Members expressed their opinions and concerns regarding the plan. Ms. Stafford agreed to bring the concerns expressed by the Board Members to the county staff and to continue to look for other options.

- D. Tilghman Fire House Repair – Ms. Stafford reported that she advised the Tilghman Volunteer Fire Company that the Board has approved the payment to them to cover the repair costs. They should proceed with the repairs and send the bill to her for payment.

New Business

- A. Comprehensive Audit – Ms. Stafford presented the results of the Comprehensive Audit of the last election conducted by the state, along with her responses to the finding and their acceptance of her plan to address the findings.

Confirmation of next meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Elections would normally be on May 17, 2023. However, the Maryland Association of Election Officials is planned a meeting for the same date. Following discussion, Mr. Black moved to change the date for the May meeting from May 17, 2023 to May 24, 2023. Mr. Bulman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Closed Session

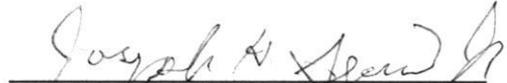
Ms. Thomas moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals as permitted under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b) (1). Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Whereupon the Board went into closed session at 11:07 AM. Present at this session were Board Members Mr. Secrist, Mr. Black, Ms. Thomas, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Bulman. Board Attorney Lyndsey Ryan were also present.

At 11:31 AM the Board returned to open session. President Secrist reported that the Board discussed specifics regarding a personnel issue. The Board also approved the minutes of the Closed Meetings of December 14, 2022 and January 18, 2023.

Adjournment

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.

Attested,



Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. Bulman, Secretary